THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
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THE HEDG
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Tracy Yardley! SEBSEN

Mogul RISING

Part Two: Devil's Due

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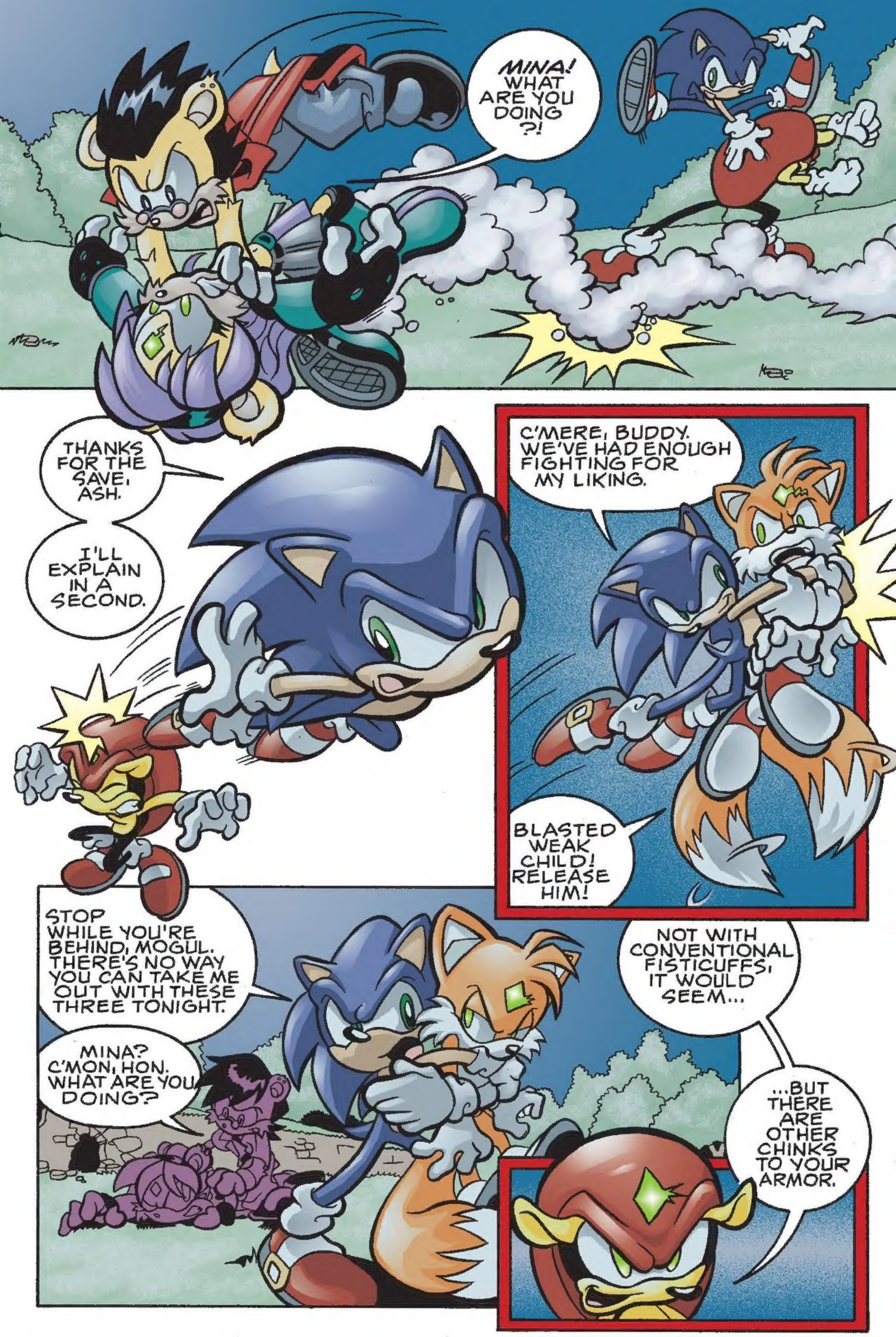
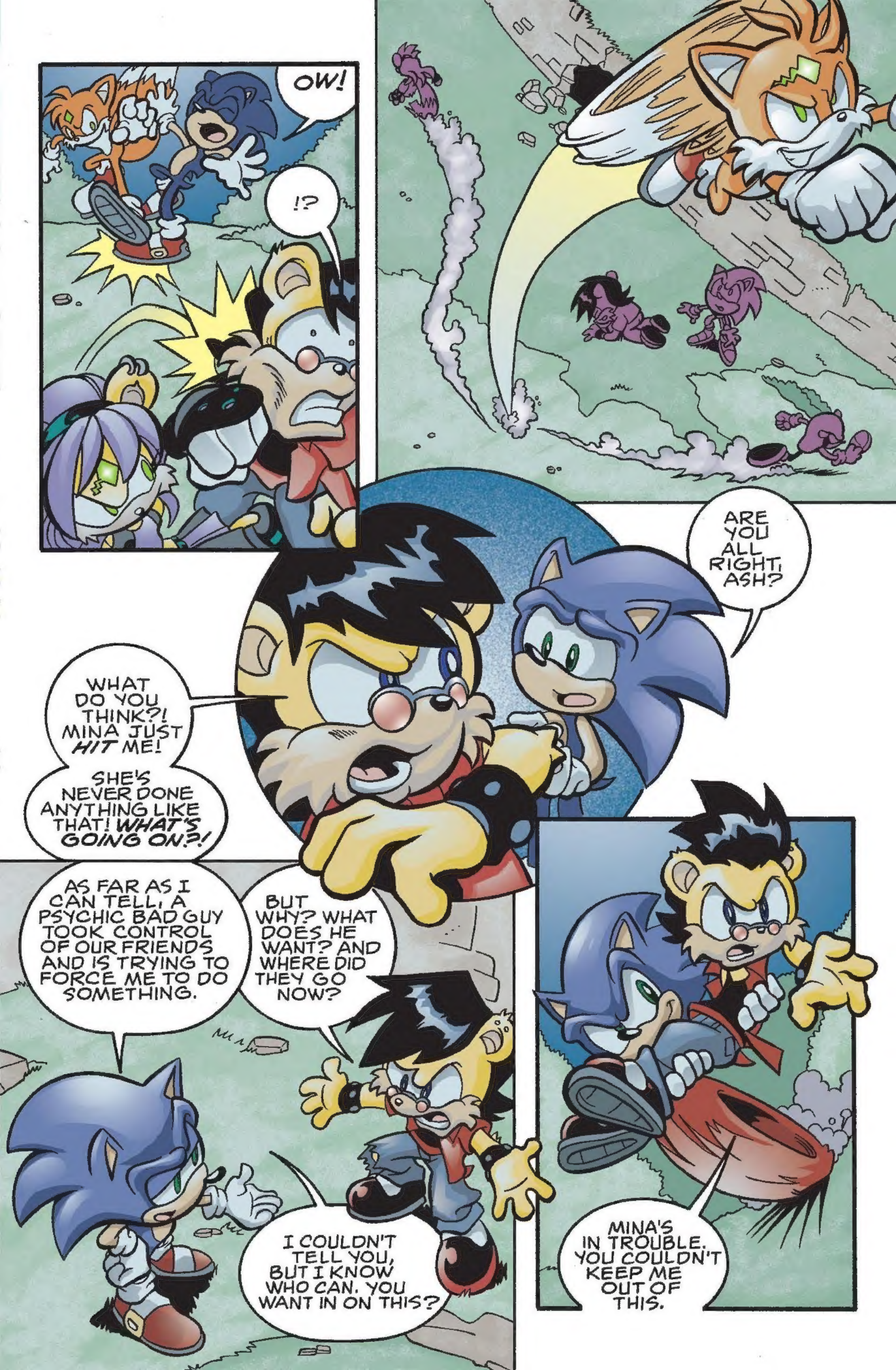
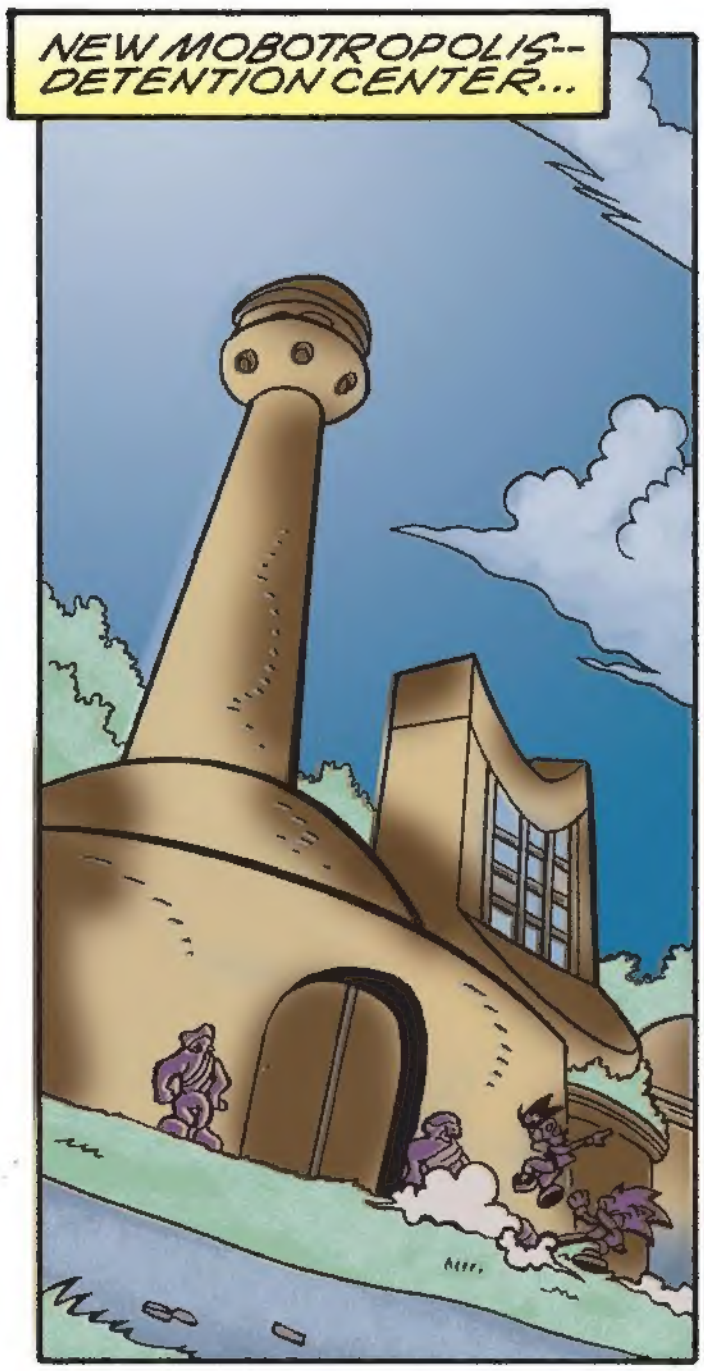
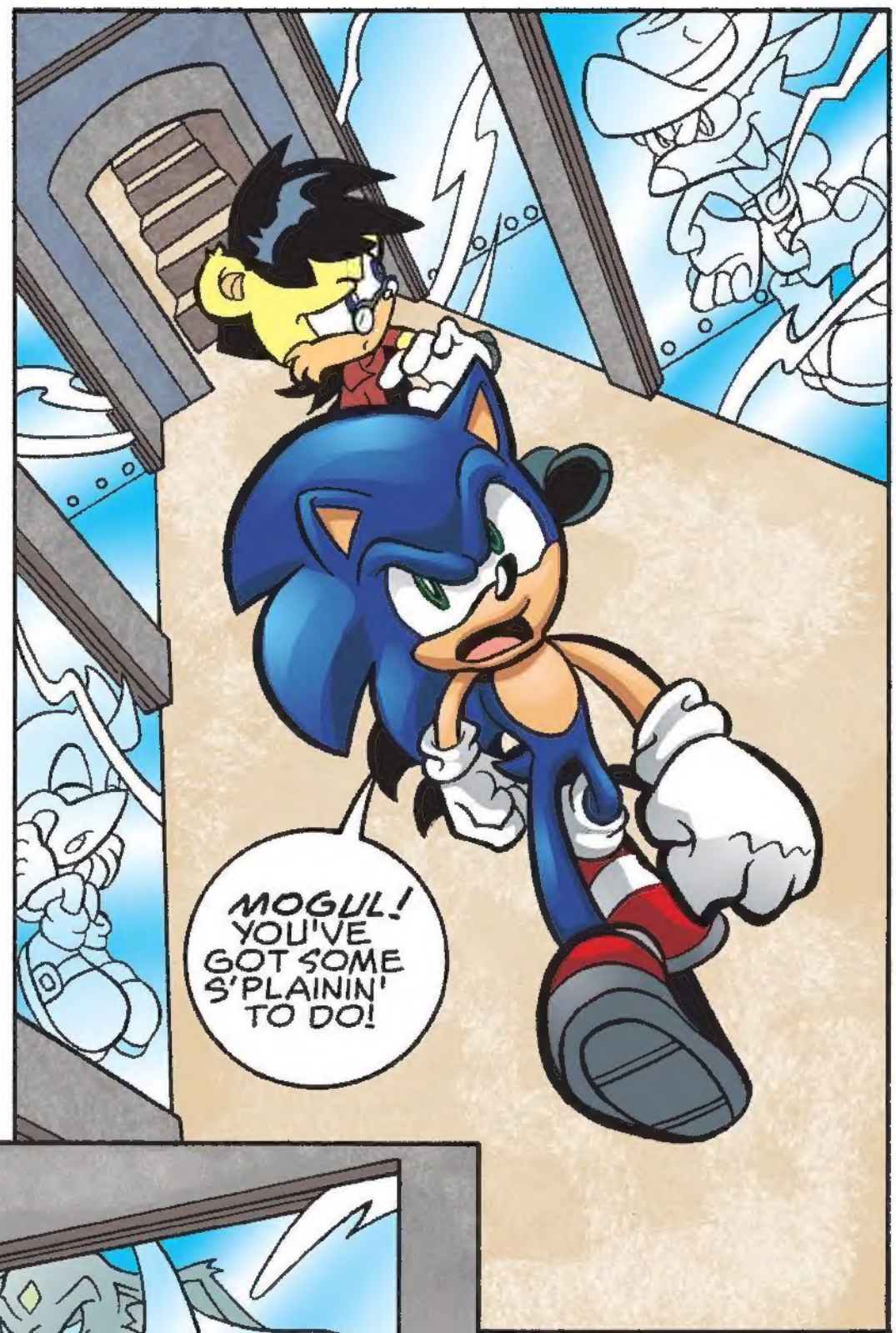
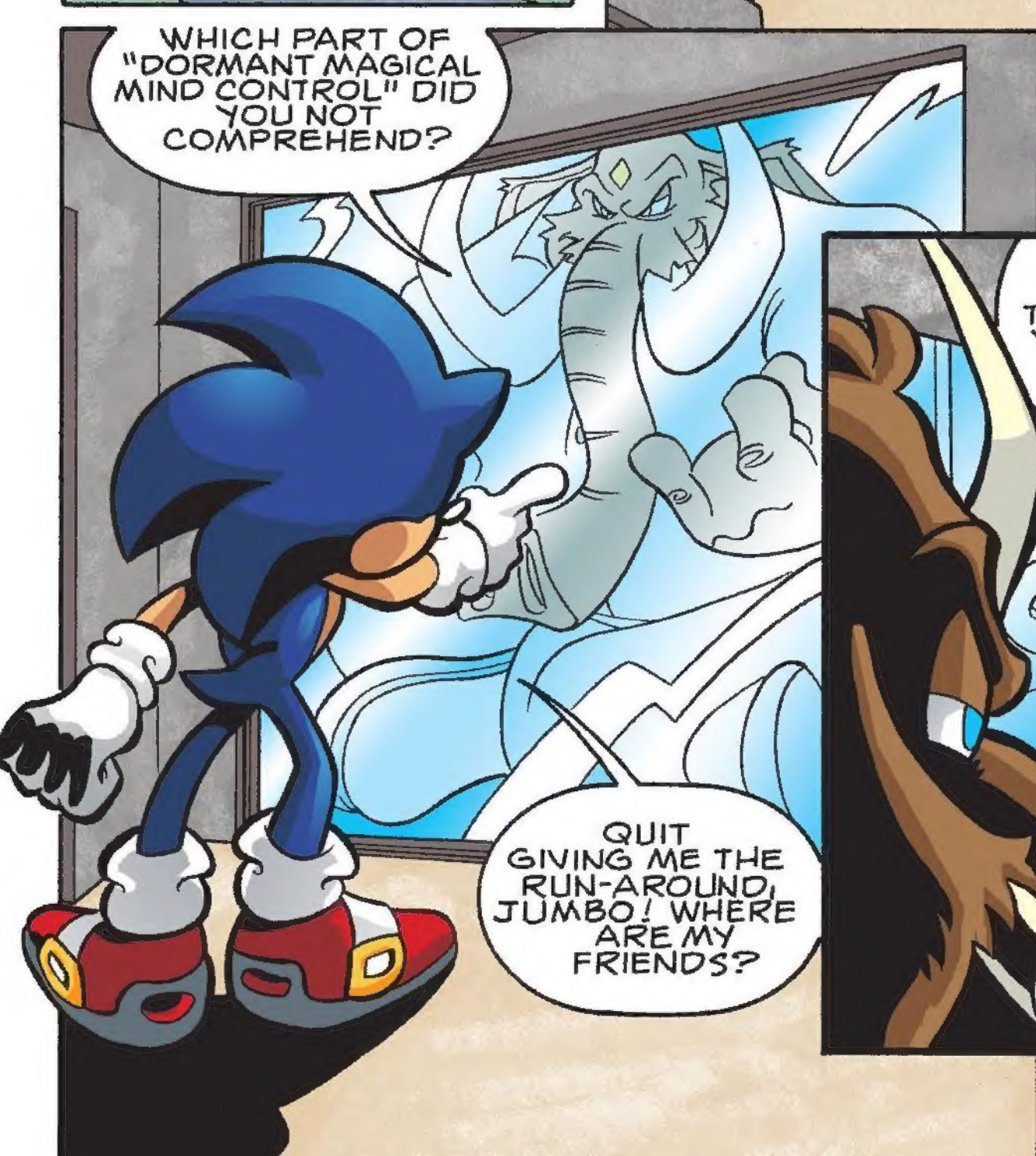
IT TICKS ME OFF MORE THAN ANYTHING, THOUGH. LET THEM GO!
THEY ARE MINE TO USE, BOY.
I FOUND EACH OF THEM AND MARKED THEM IN THE PAST. ALL THEY NEEDED WAS MY TELEPATHIC SIGNAL TO AWAKEN TO MY CONTROL.
I DON'T CARE! I SAID LET THEM GO!
YOU COULD HAVE PREVENTED THIS IF YOU'D LISTENED TO ME THIS MORNING.
I'M NOT FIGHTING MY FRIENDS!
YOU TALKED A LOT BUT SAID NOTHING!
SARCASM AND QUIPS WILL NOT HELP YOU TONIGHT, BOY. YOU WILL GIVE ME WHAT I WANT.
NOT LIKELY.


MINA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
THANKS FOR THE SAVE, ASH.
I'LL EXPLAIN IN A SECOND.
C'MERE, BUDDY. WE'VE HAD ENOUGH FIGHTING FOR MY LIKING.
BLASTED WEAK CHILD! RELEASE HIM!
STOP WHILE YOU'RE BEHIND, MOGUL. THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN TAKE ME OUT WITH THESE THREE TONIGHT.
MINA? C'MON, HON. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NOT WITH CONVENTIONAL FISTICUFFS, IT WOULD SEEM...
...BUT THERE ARE OTHER CHINKS TO YOUR ARMOR.


OW!
!?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ASH?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?! MINA JUST HIT ME!
SHE'S NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, A PSYCHIC BAD GUY TOOK CONTROL OF OUR FRIENDS AND IS TRYING TO FORCE ME TO DO SOMETHING.
BUT WHY? WHAT DOES HE WANT? AND WHERE DID THEY GO NOW?
I COULDN'T TELL YOU, BUT I KNOW WHO CAN. YOU WANT IN ON THIS?
MINA'S IN TROUBLE. YOU COULDN'T KEEP ME OUT OF THIS.

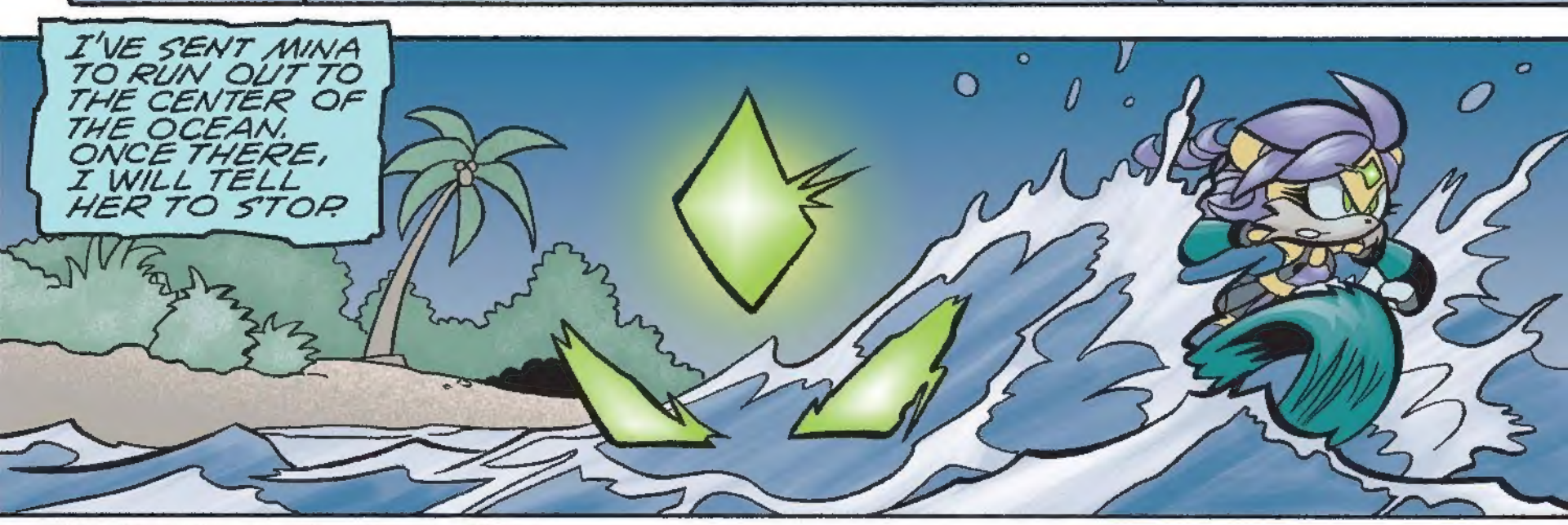

NEW MOBOTROPOLIS--
DETENTION CENTER...

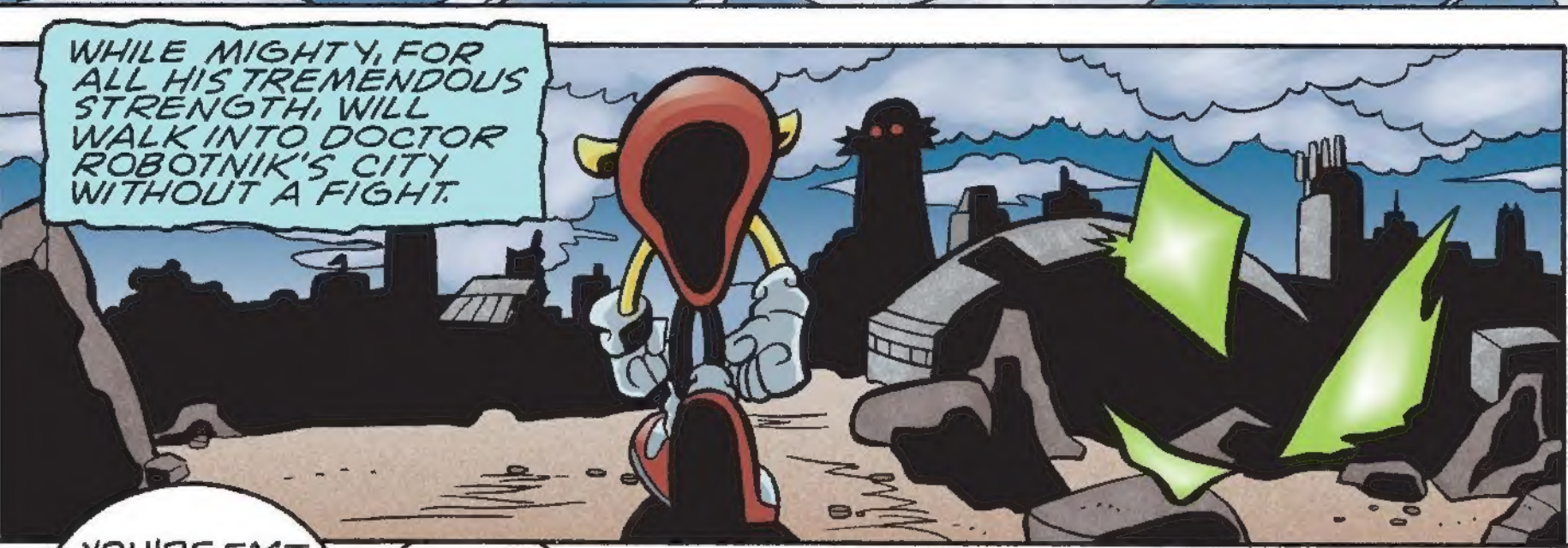

MOGUL! YOU'VE GOT SOME S'PLAININ' TO DO!

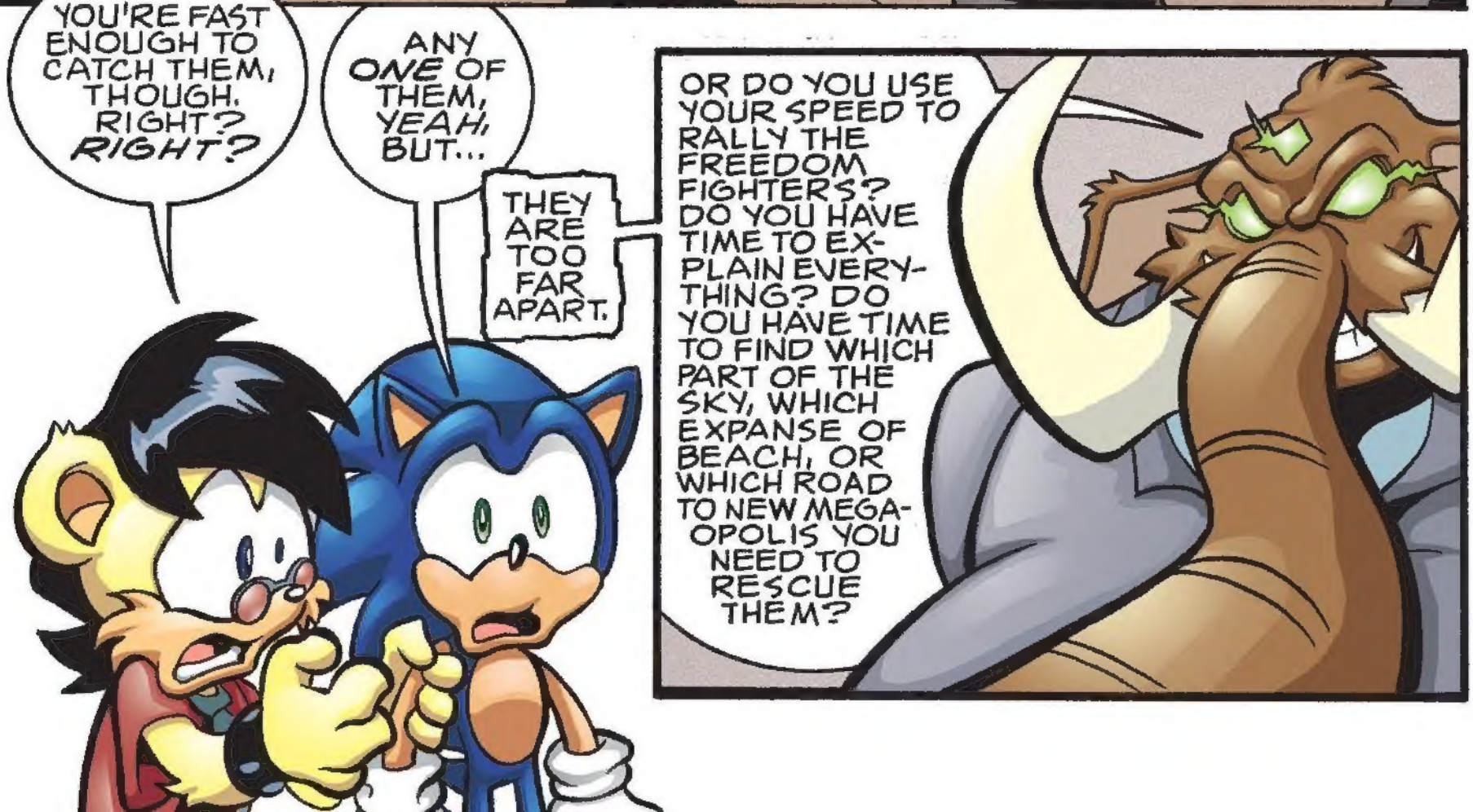

WHICH PART OF "DORMANT MAGICAL MIND CONTROL" DID YOU NOT COMPREHEND?
QUIT GIVING ME THE RUN-AROUND, JUMBO! WHERE ARE MY FRIENDS?

I AM STILL WILLING TO TRADE. WILL YOU LISTEN TO MY TERMS?
I'M NOT DEALING WITH A JERK-IN-THE-BOX. WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

YOU ARE THE EMBODIMENT OF OBSTINACY! FINE. I AM SENDING TAILS AS HIGH AS HE CAN GO UNTIL HE PASSES OUT FROM THE THIN ATMOSPHERE. I DO NOT EXPECT THE GROUND TO BE MUCH OF A CUSHION.

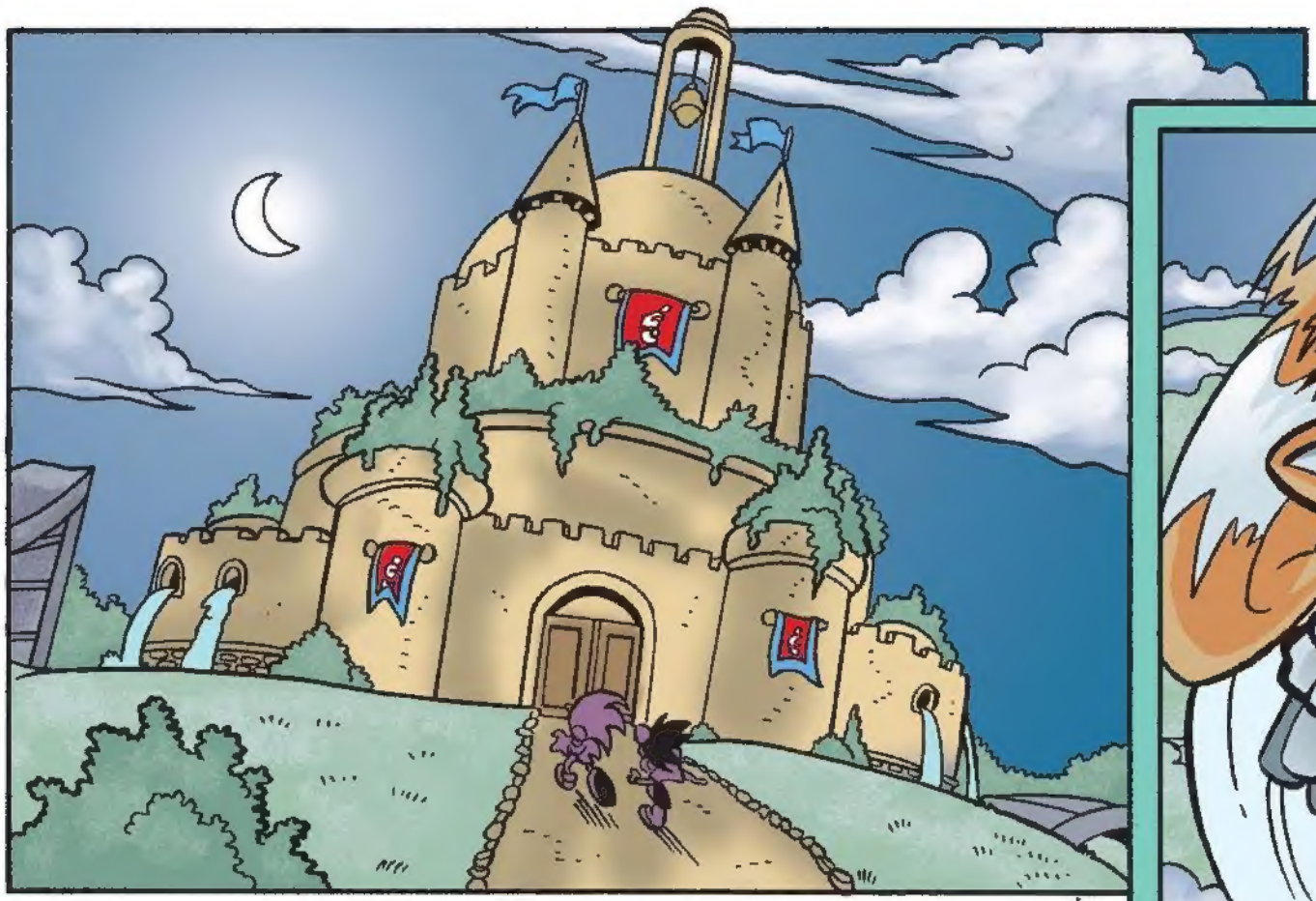

I'VE SENT MINA TO RUN OUT TO THE CENTER OF THE OCEAN. ONCE THERE, I WILL TELL HER TO STOP.

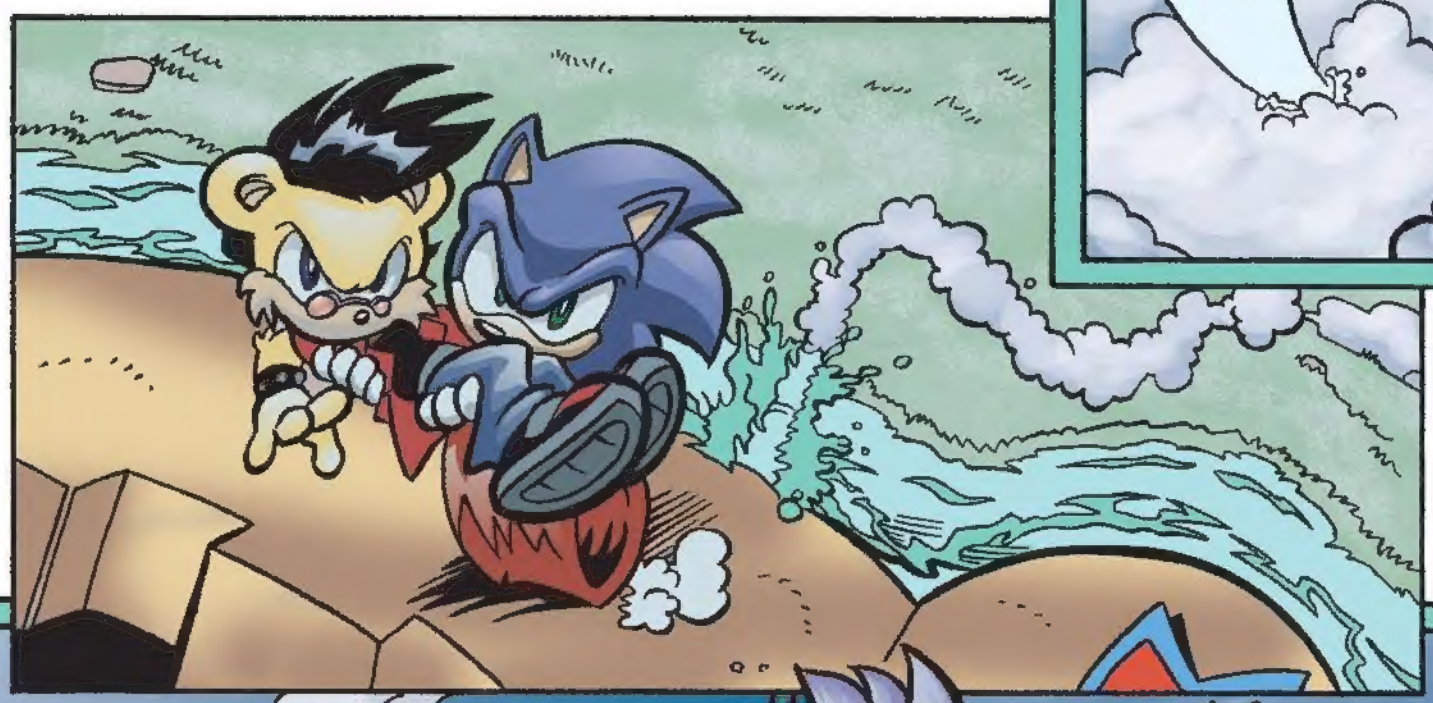

WHILE MIGHTY, FOR ALL HIS TREMENDOUS STRENGTH, WILL WALK INTO DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S CITY WITHOUT A FIGHT.

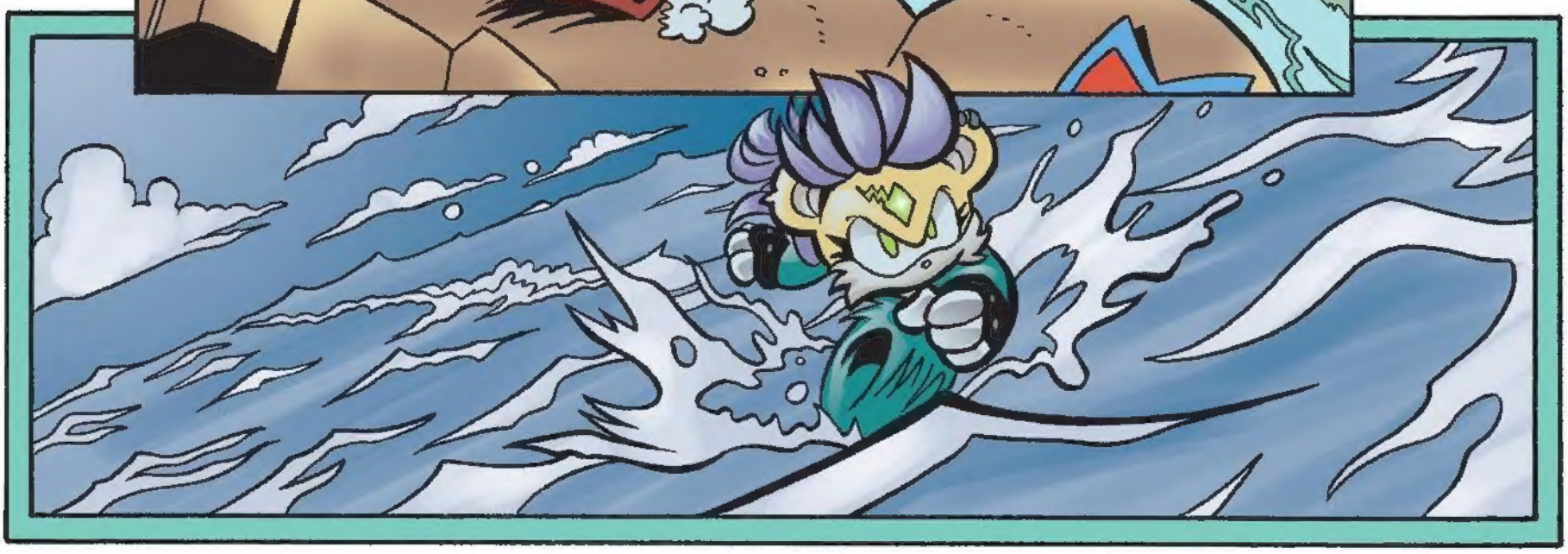

YOU'RE FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH THEM, THOUGH. RIGHT? RIGHT?
ANY ONE OF THEM, YEAH, BUT...
THEY ARE TOO FAR APART.
OR DO YOU USE YOUR SPEED TO RALLY THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS? DO YOU HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING? DO YOU HAVE TIME TO FIND WHICH PART OF THE SKY, WHICH EXPANSE OF BEACH, OR WHICH ROAD TO NEW MEGAOPOLIS YOU NEED TO RESCUE THEM?

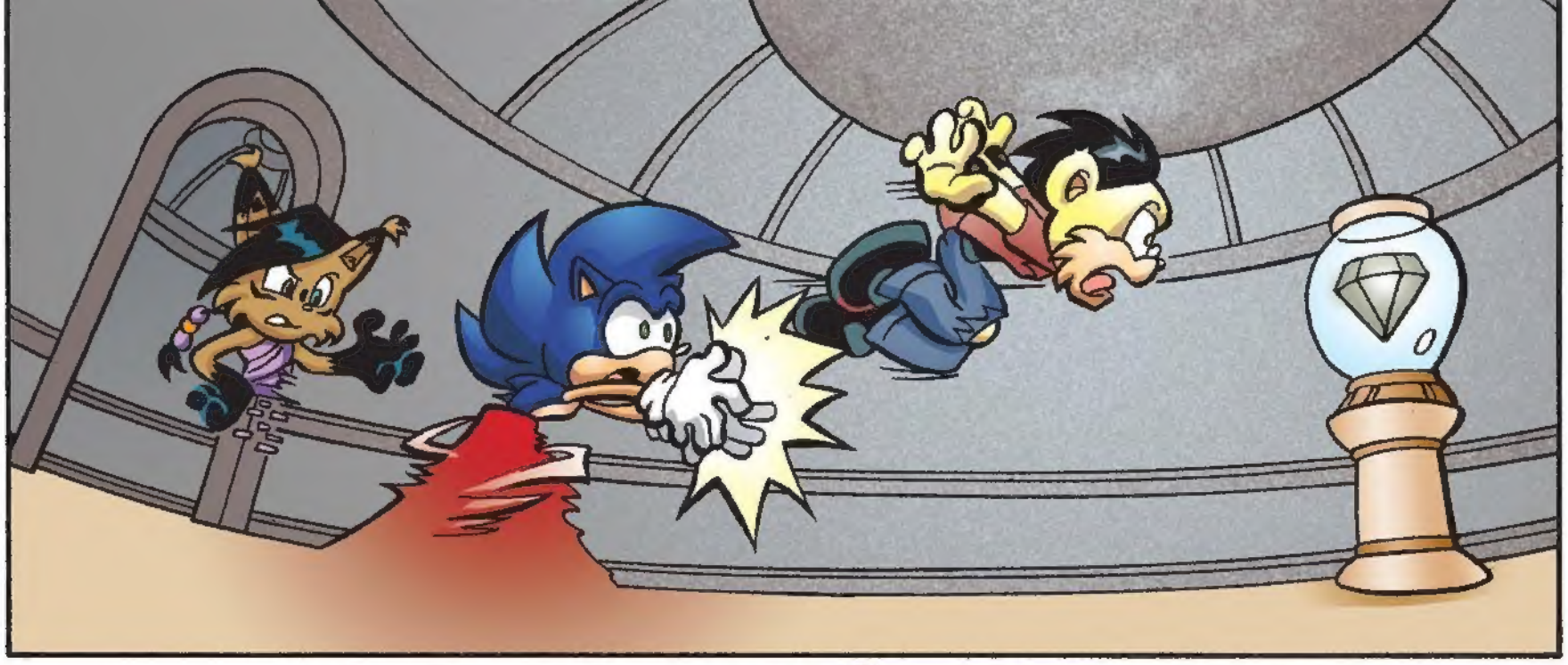
FINE! YOU'VE GOT HIM BEAT, AND YOU'RE THE SMARTEST, OR WHATEVER! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
I ONCE WAS A GOD, BOY. UNIVERSES WERE MINE TO CREATE OR DESTROY. I HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO A MINOR SORCERER IN A CAGE. YOU WILL BRING ME THE CHAOS EMERALD I HAVE SENSED WHILE IN CONFINEMENT, AND YOU WILL RESTORE THE POWER THAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE.
I WANT YOUR WORD THAT EVERYONE RETURNS HOME UNHARMED, OR NO DEAL!
YOU HAVE IT. WELCOME TO THE FEARSOME FOURSOME.
SONIC? WHAT ARE YOU AND ASH DOING--?
WHERE DO WE HAVE THE CHAOS EMERALD STASHED, NICOLE?
CASTLE ACORN. WHY?

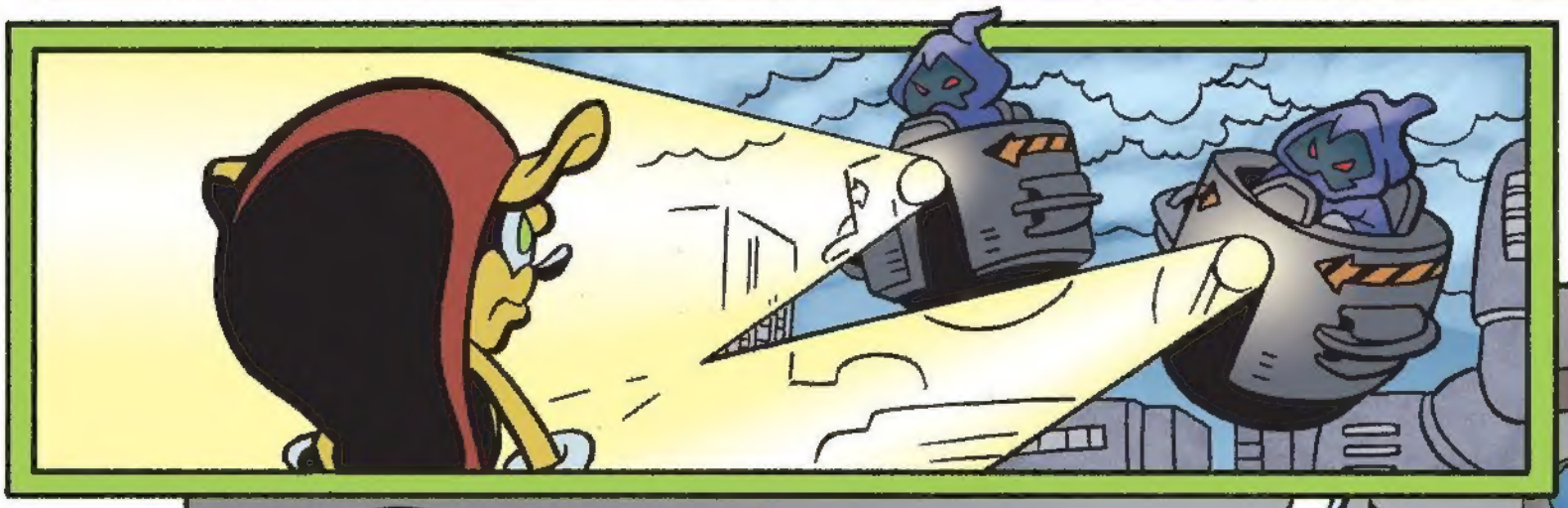
COOL. ASH, I'M GOING TO NEED A HAND.
RIGHT.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

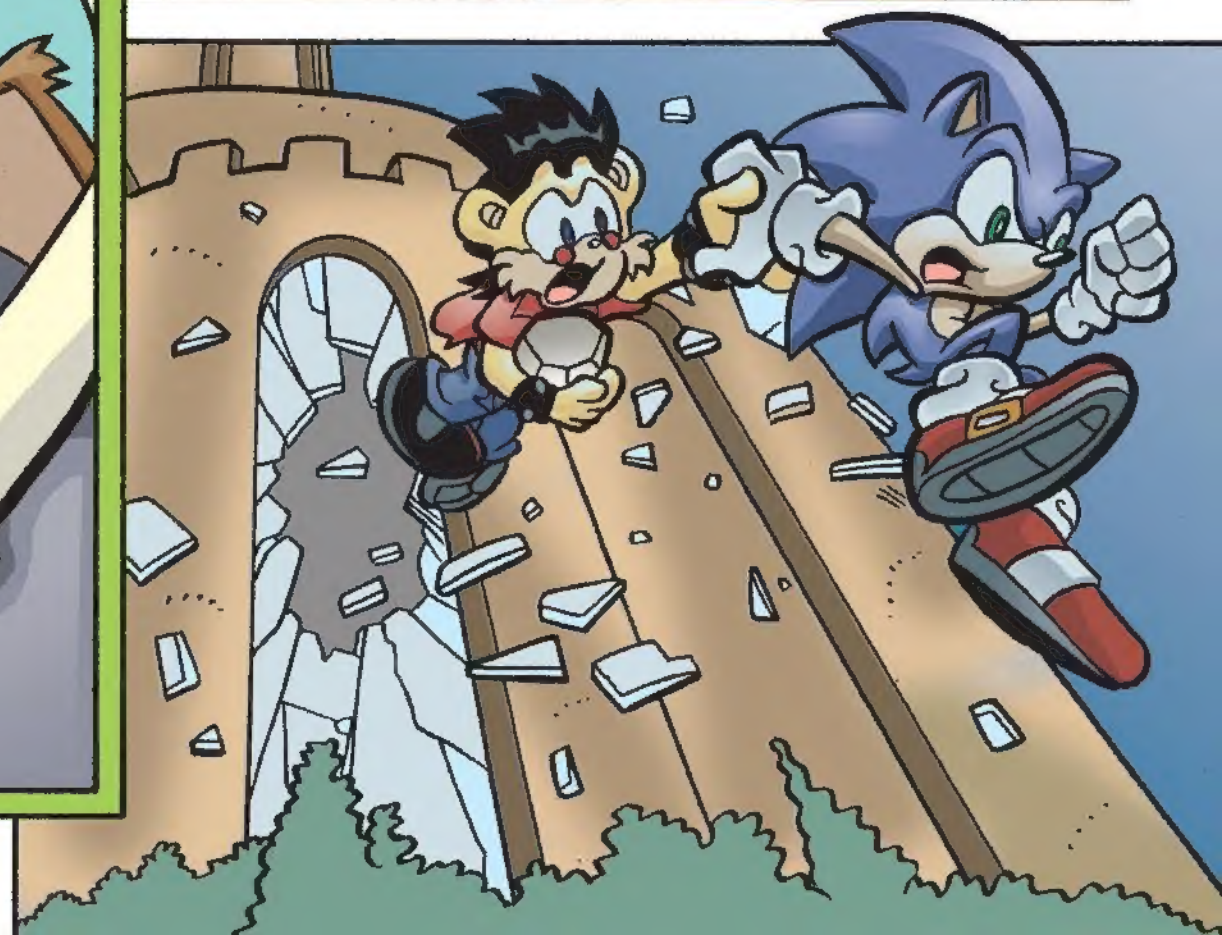


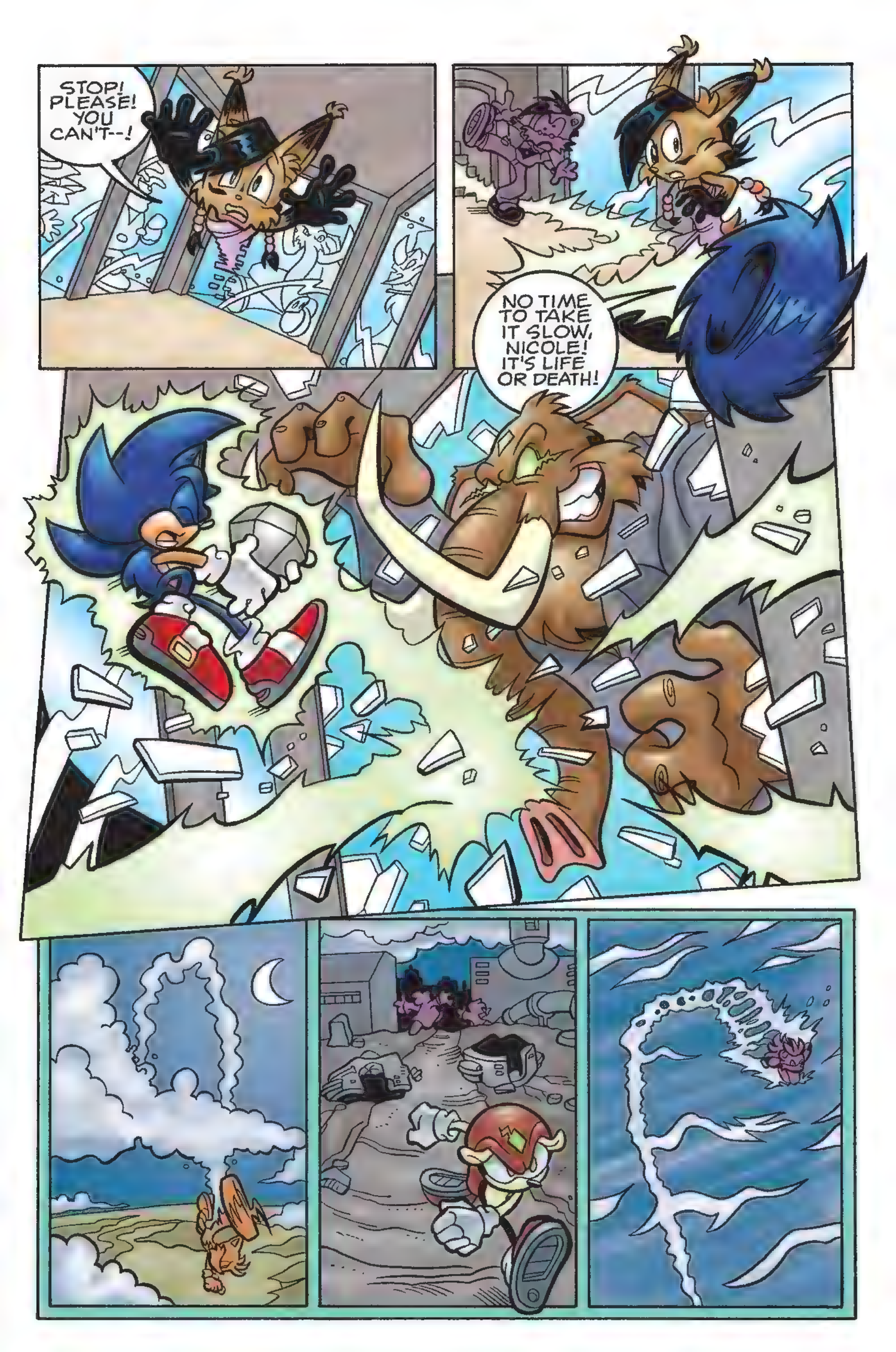











STOP! PLEASE! YOU CAN'T--!
NO TIME TO TAKE IT SLOW, NICOLE! IT'S LIFE OR DEATH!

ARE YOU INSANE?! I CAN'T CONTAIN THAT KIND OF POWER!
NICOLE, HE DIDN'T LEAVE ME WITH A CHOICE.
WOULD YOU LIKE IT BETTER IF MINA DROWNED ?!
WHAT?!
WHOA, ASH, CHILL!
SUCH INANE SQUABBLING...
FWASH

YOU ARE NOT NEEDED HERE, MY DEAR.
!
ASH? ARE YOU OKAY?
...UNGH...

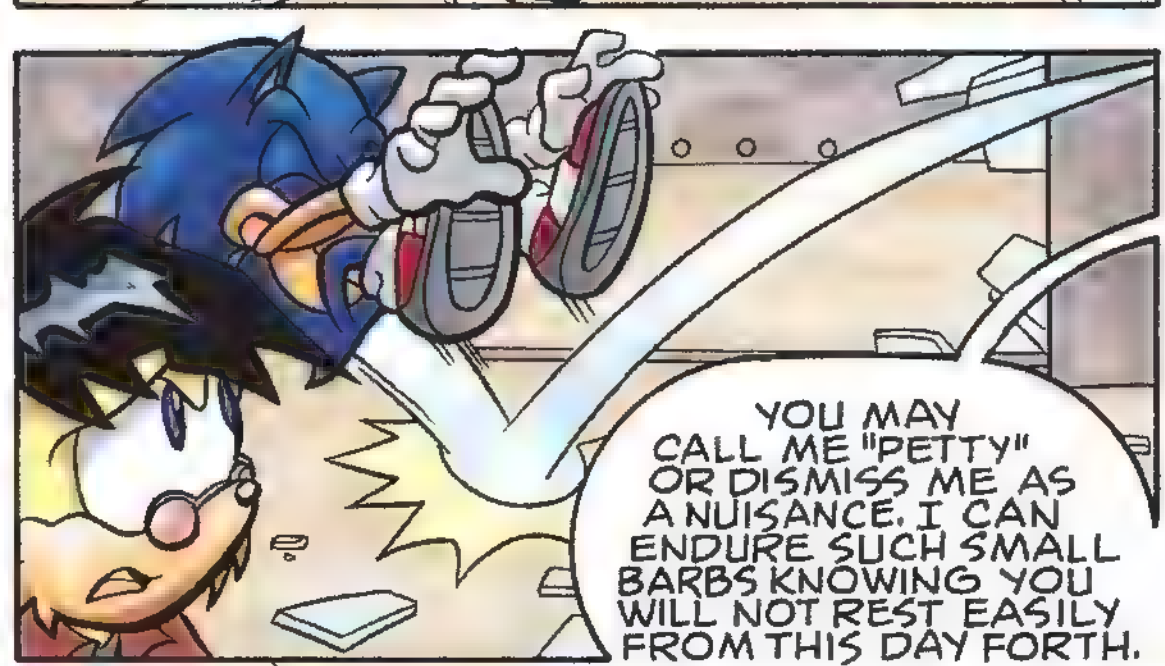
OH, RIGHT. YOU'RE RIDICULOUSLY POWERFUL AGAIN.
NOW WHAT, MO'-GUT?

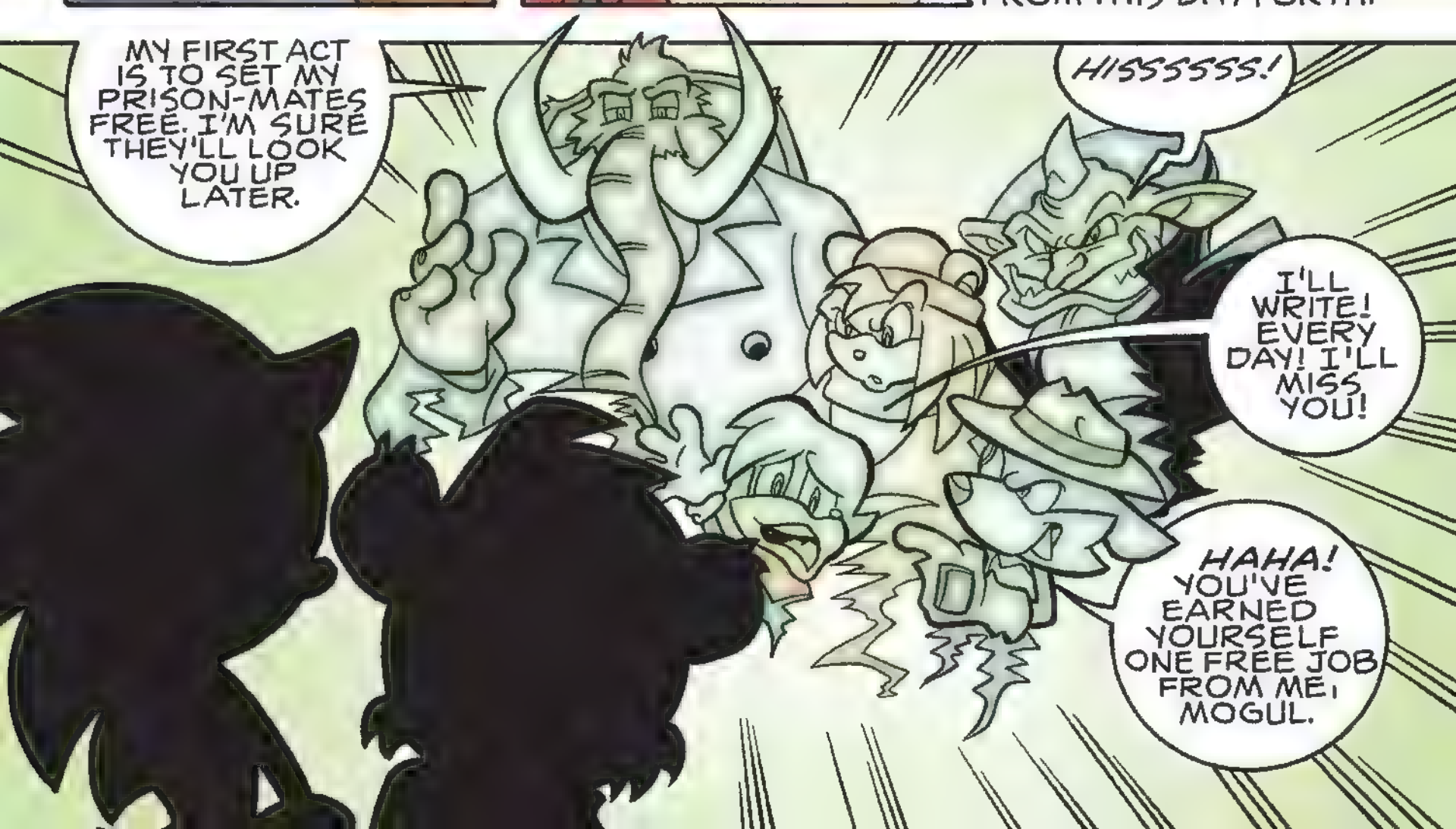
FOREVER SPOUTING YOUR EMPTY BRAVADO, AREN'T YOU? OUR BUSINESS IS CONCLUDED, BOY. THE FOURSOME HAVE SERVED ME AND ARE NOW DECOMMISSIONED.
...SERIOUSLY?

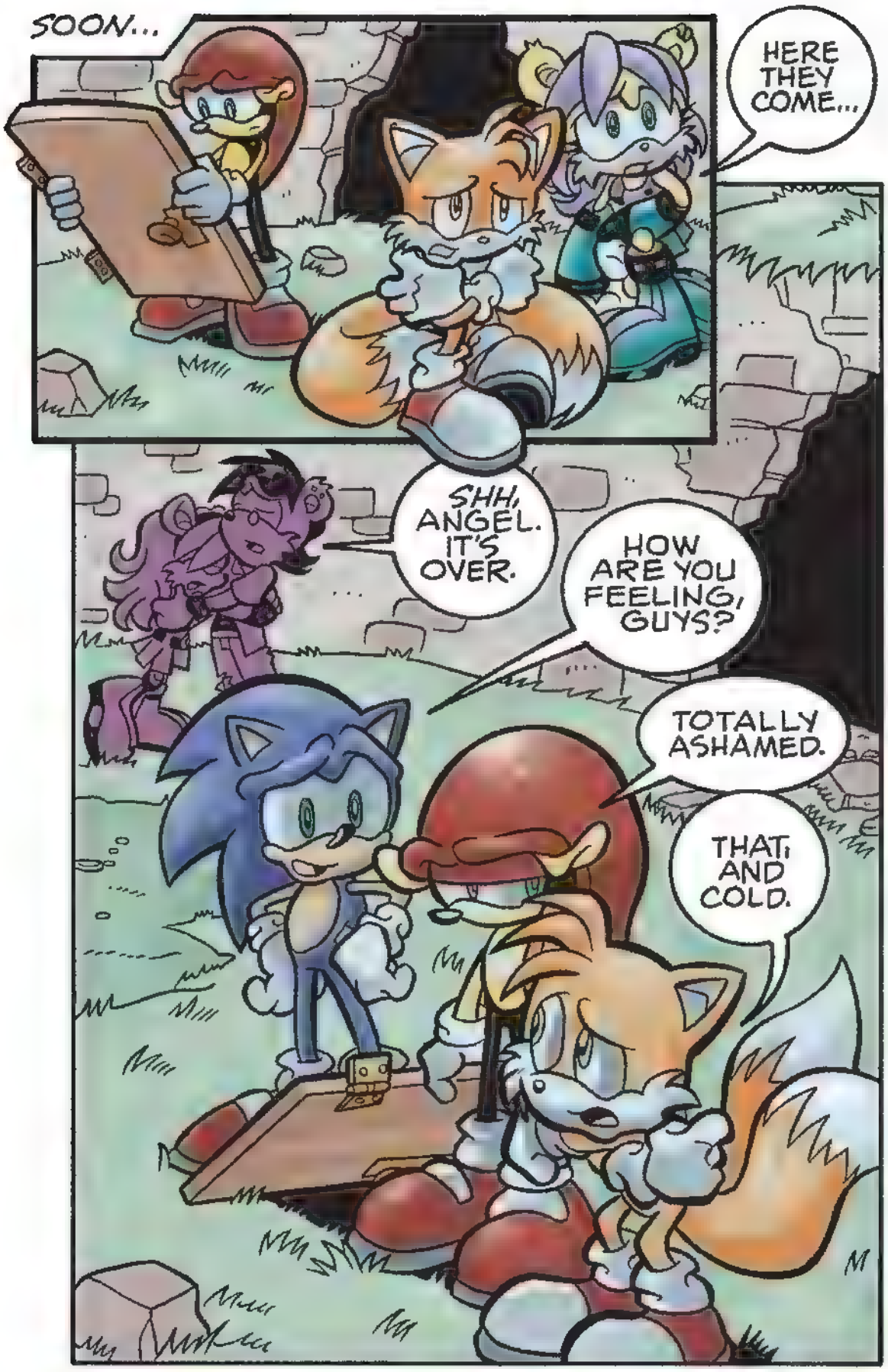
IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE IN TACTICS, BOY. SOMETHING I CAME TO UNDERSTAND IN MY IMMORTALITY WAS THAT I CAN-NOT BEAT YOU.
WHAT?

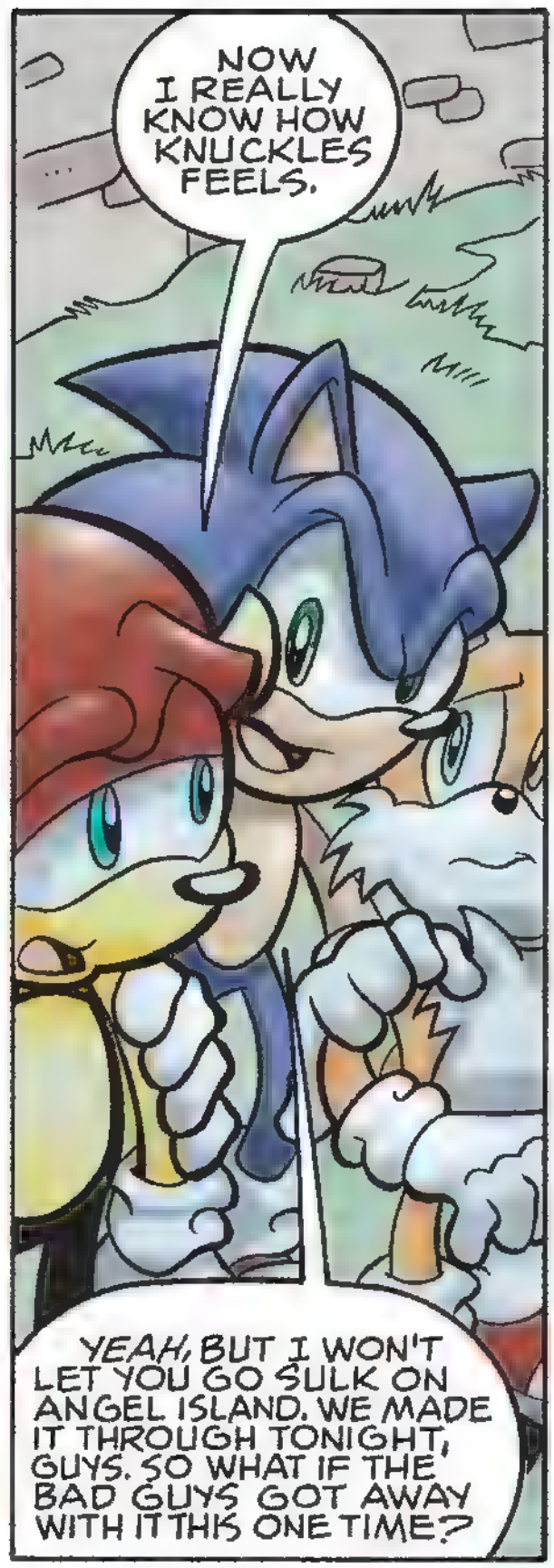
I SHALL USE SMALL WORDS SO YOU CAN FOLLOW. TWICE I'VE RISEN TO GODHOOD, AND TWICE I'VE FALLEN IN YOUR PRESENCE. NO MATTER WHAT POWER I WIELD, THE FATES CONVENE TO ENSURE YOUR VICTORY. EVEN IF I WERE TO ACT NOW, I AM CERTAIN *SOMETHING* WOULD THWART ME OR RESCUE YOU. IT IS A COSMIC PUNCH-LINE I'VE GROWN *QUITE* WEARY OF.

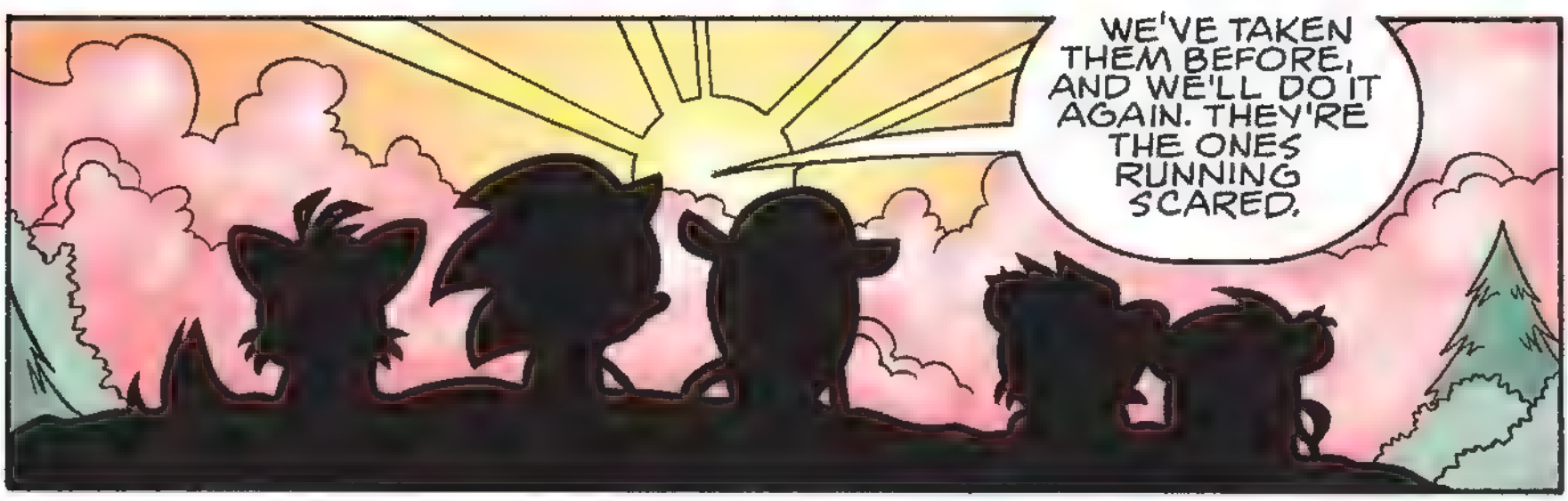
THE ADVANTAGE I HAVE IS *TIME*. AS AN IMMORTAL, I CAN WAIT YOU OUT. I MAY NOT DEFEAT YOU, BUT YOU WILL NEVER KNOW PEACE. NOR WILL YOUR CHILDREN ...OR THEIR CHILDREN.
VINDICTIVE MUCH?
I CALL IT "PATIENCE."


YOU MAY CALL ME "PETTY" OR DISMISS ME AS A NUISANCE. I CAN ENDURE SUCH SMALL BARBS KNOWING YOU WILL NOT REST EASILY FROM THIS DAY FORTH.


MY FIRST ACT IS TO SET MY PRISON-MATES FREE. I'M SURE THEY'LL LOOK YOU UP LATER.
HISSSSSS!
I'LL WRITE! EVERY DAY! I'LL MISS YOU!
HAHA! YOU'VE EARNED YOURSELF ONE FREE JOB FROM ME, MOGUL.

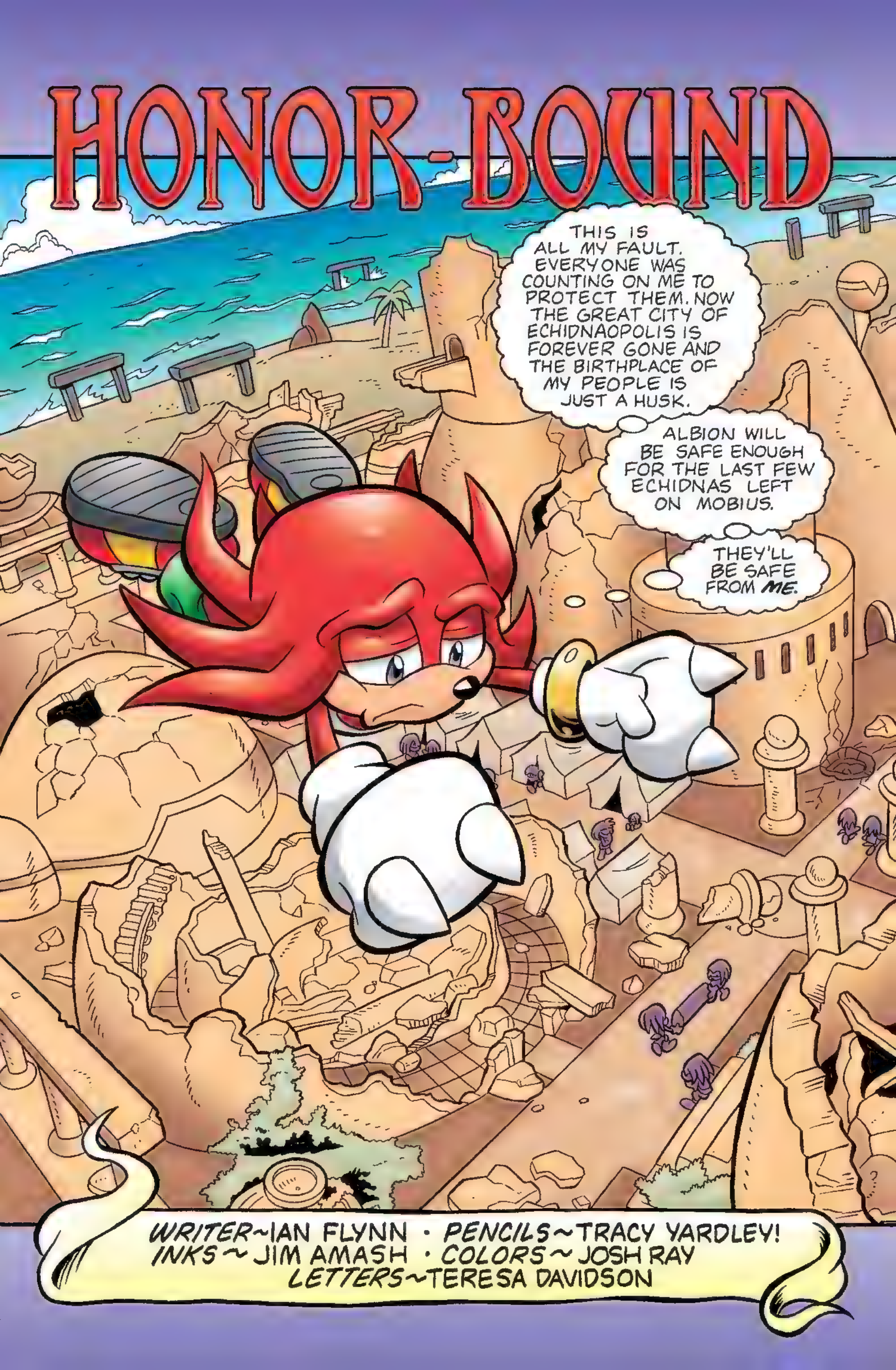






IS SONIC RIGHT? ARE THE VILLAINS TRULY "ON THE RUN," OR ARE THEY JUST WAITING FOR THEIR NEXT ORDER? AND WHAT OF MOGUL'S CRYPTIC MESSAGE? PERHAPS THE ANSWERS AWAIT IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE, WHERE SONIC FINDS HIMSELF TO BE "MISTER POPULAR"!

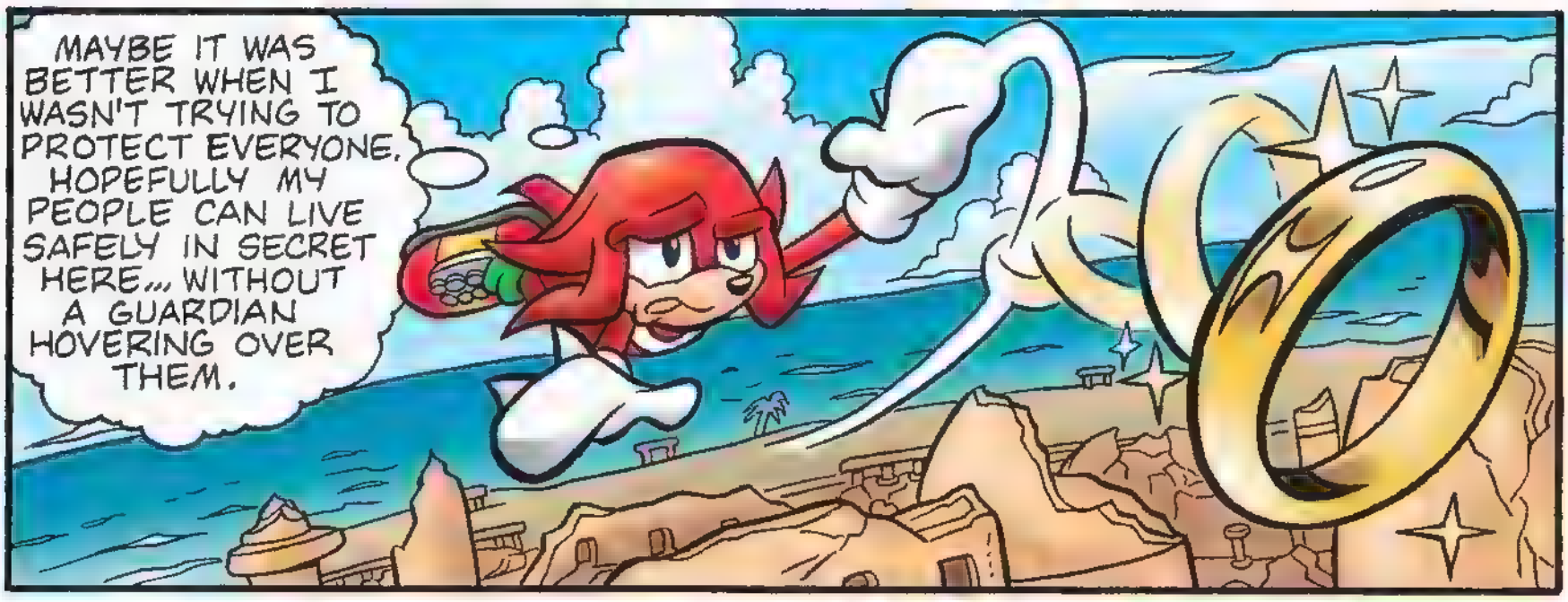
HONOR-BOUND



WRITER~IAN FLYNN · PENCILS~TRACY YARDLEY!
INKS~JIM AMASH · COLORS~JOSH RAY
LETTERS~TERESA DAVIDSON

IF THERE'S ANY GOOD FROM ALL THIS, IT'S THAT REMINGTON GOT HIS LIFE BACK. HE'S THE REAL REASON MY PEOPLE ARE DOING SO WELL IN ALBION. SURE, IT WAS MY POWER THAT RESTORED HIM, BUT...

...ONE GOOD DEED DOESN'T MAKE UP FOR ALL I DID AS ENERJAK.* HOW CAN I FACE MY MOTHER AND THE FAMILY SHE'S MANAGED TO CREATE WHEN I SENT THEM ALL TO THOSE RUINS?
*KNUCKLES WASN'T QUITE HIMSELF IN THE EPIC ENERJAK: REBORN (STH #180-184)


MAYBE IT WAS BETTER WHEN I WASN'T TRYING TO PROTECT EVERYONE. HOPEFULLY MY PEOPLE CAN LIVE SAFELY IN SECRET HERE... WITHOUT A GUARDIAN HOVERING OVER THEM.

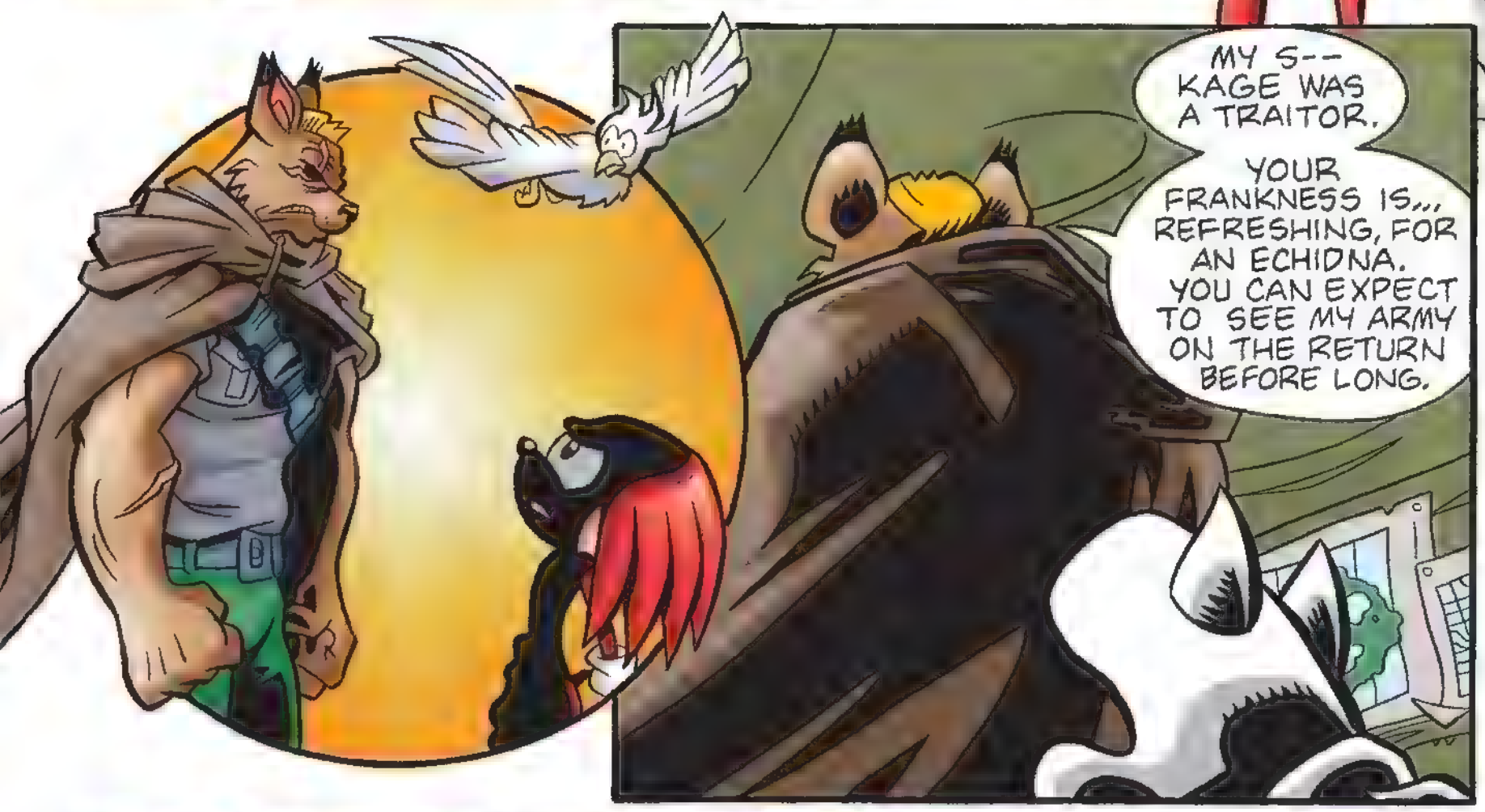
NA-NA!
WHAT? YOU SEE--?

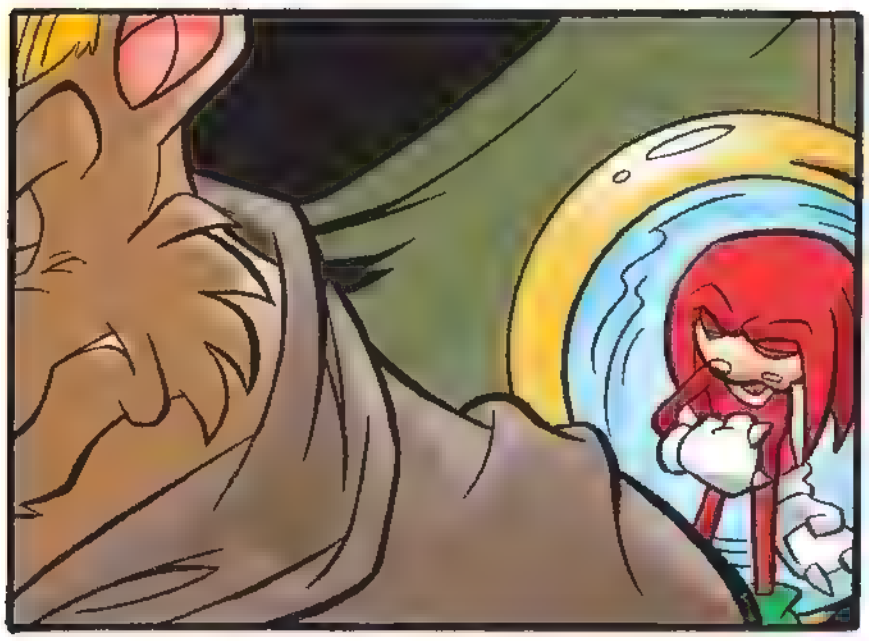
...KNUCKLES?
C
BAH-BAH, NA-NA!

SANDOPOLIS OASIS, ANGEL ISLAND
STAND-TO, HELMUT! YOU'VE GOT SOME UNEXPECTED COMPANY!
GENERAL VON STRYKER.
GUARDIAN KNUCKLES. COME TO ENSURE WE'RE STRUGGLING?
NO. I--
I'M HAPPY TO DISAPPOINT.
AFTER ENERJAK TOSSED MY ARMY OUT HERE TO SHARE MY EXILE, I TOOK BACK CONTROL.* WE FOUND THIS OASIS AND WE'RE THRIVING. THE WATER IS CLEAR, THE SAND-WORM HUNTING IS GOOD, AND IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL WE MAKE OUR WAY BACK INTO THE INTERIOR OF ANGEL ISLAND.
* WE FIRST FOUND OUT THE GENERAL WAS DEPOSED IN STH #138

AND I WELCOME YOU BACK.
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO AFTER WHAT I DID TO YOUR PEOPLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WHAT YOU DID? IT WAS ENERJAK THAT--

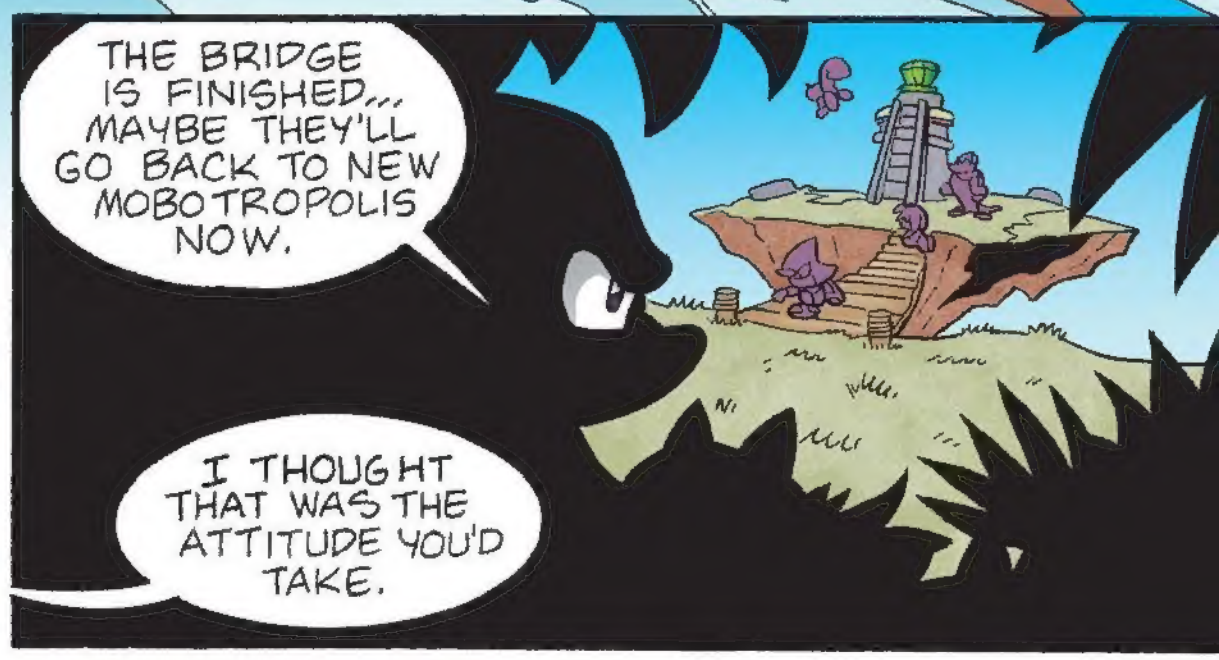
GENERAL, I WAS ENERJAK.
AND DURING THAT TIME I BETRAYED EVERY-THING THE GUARDIANS STOOD FOR. I CAME TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT I DID TO YOUR CITY. AND FOR YOUR SON...

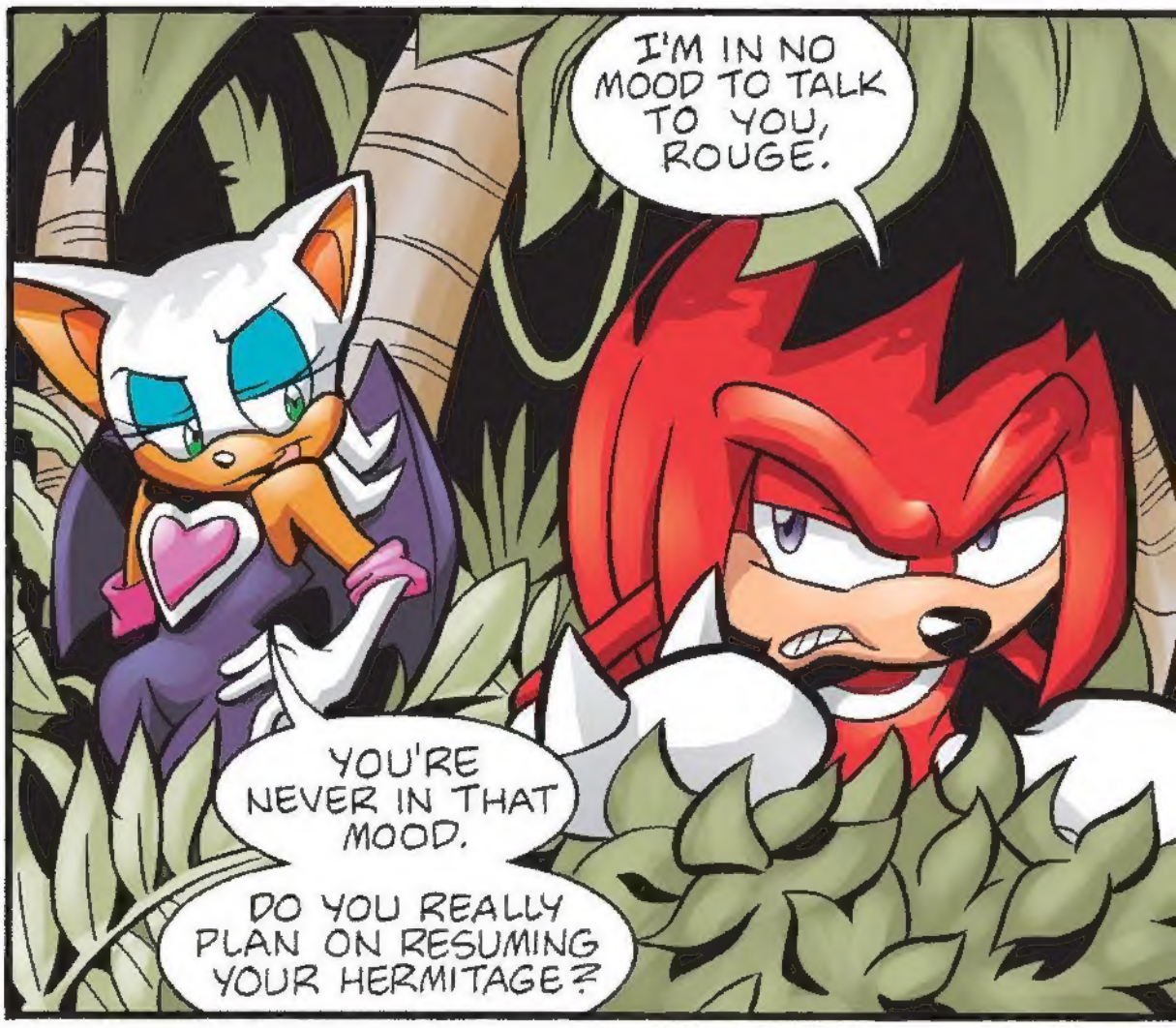

MY S-- KAGE WAS A TRAITOR.
YOUR FRANKNESS IS... REFRESHING, FOR AN ECHIDNA. YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE MY ARMY ON THE RETURN BEFORE LONG.



I UNDERSTAND. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, GENERAL.

SHRINE ISLE, ANGEL ISLAND





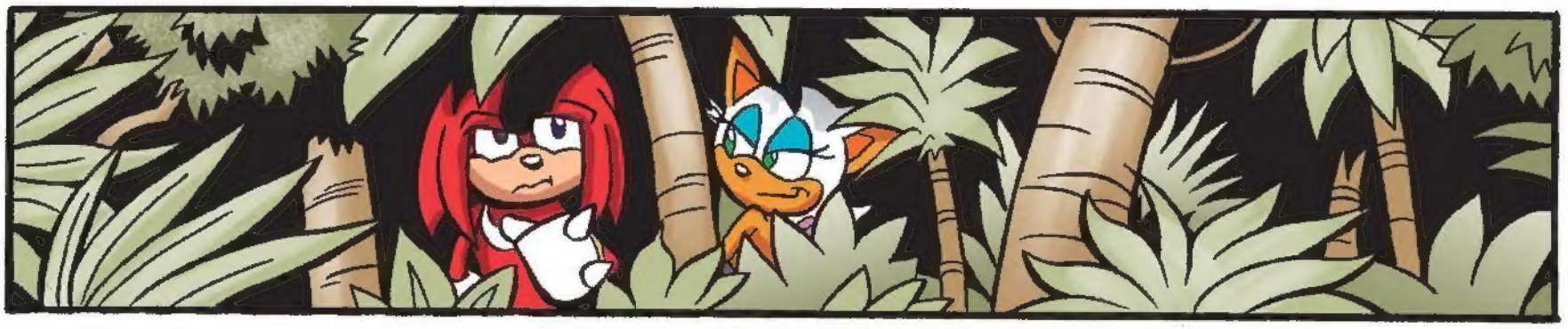
IT'S FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY.
THINGS WERE MANAGEABLE ON ANGEL ISLAND BACK WHEN I WAS HERE ALL THE TIME. IF I HADN'T LEFT, DR. FINITEVUS NEVER WOULD'VE GOTTEN THE MASTER EMERALD. MY PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE NEARLY EXTINCT. I WOULDN'T HAVE LOST CONTROL OF MY POWER--AGAIN!
MY FATHER WOULD STILL BE ALIVE.
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT. THE EGGMAN EMPIRE COULD'VE ROLLED THROUGH HERE WITH OR WITHOUT YOU.
AND YOU CAN'T PRETEND TO KNOW HOW FINITEVUS THINKS OR PLANS. TRUST ME.
AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!
ANGEL ISLAND SURVIVED COUNTLESS DISASTERS UNDER PAST GUARDIANS! WHO'S TO SAY THEIR WAYS WOULDN'T WORK NOW!

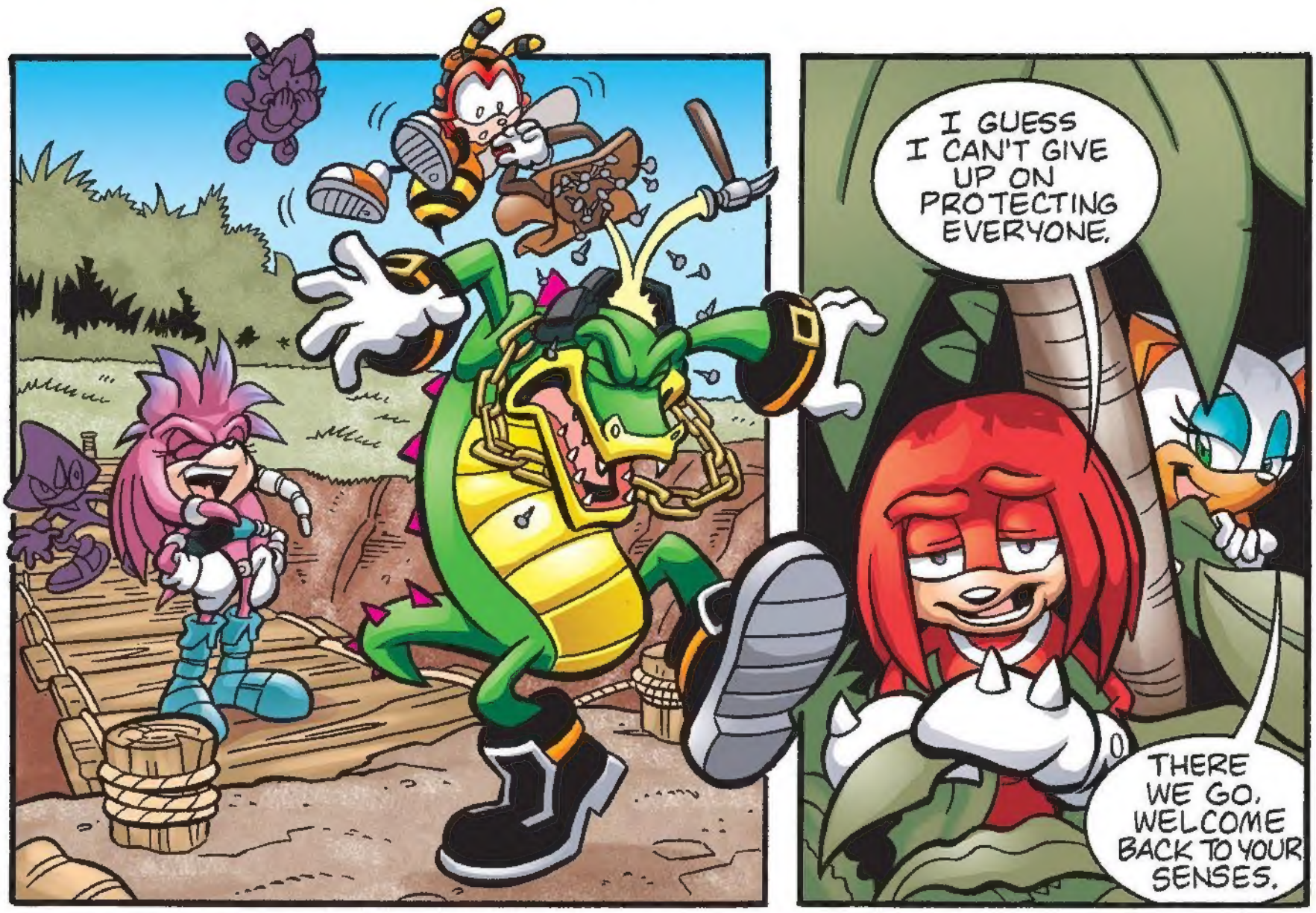
I'D SAY THE FACT THAT THE BROTHERHOOD IS GONE NOW SHOWS YOU JUST HOW WELL THEIR WAYS PROTECTED THEM. HAVEN AND ALL THEIR LITTLE TRICKS DIDN'T STOP DR. ROBOTNIK. TRYING TO GO BACK TO A TIME-TESTED FAILURE IN POLICY IS ONLY GOING TO MAKE THINGS WORSE FOR YOU.
I-- THEY-- YOU--!

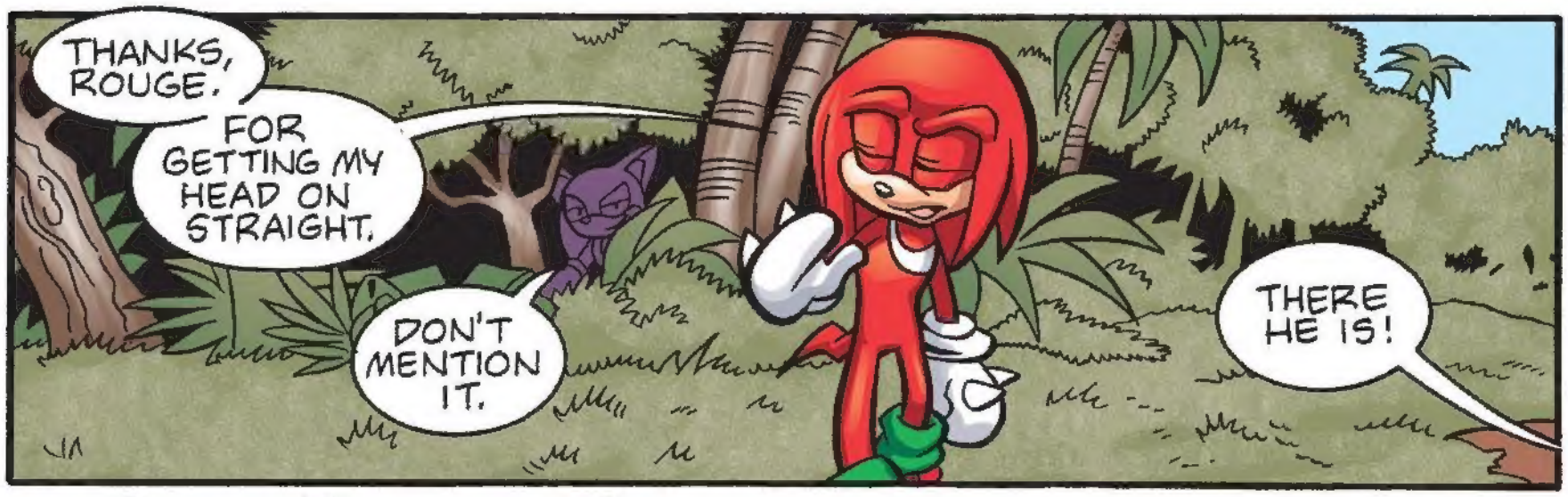
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT MY FOREFATHERS?
HONEY, I'M A SPY.
I MAKE IT MY BUSINESS TO KNOW.

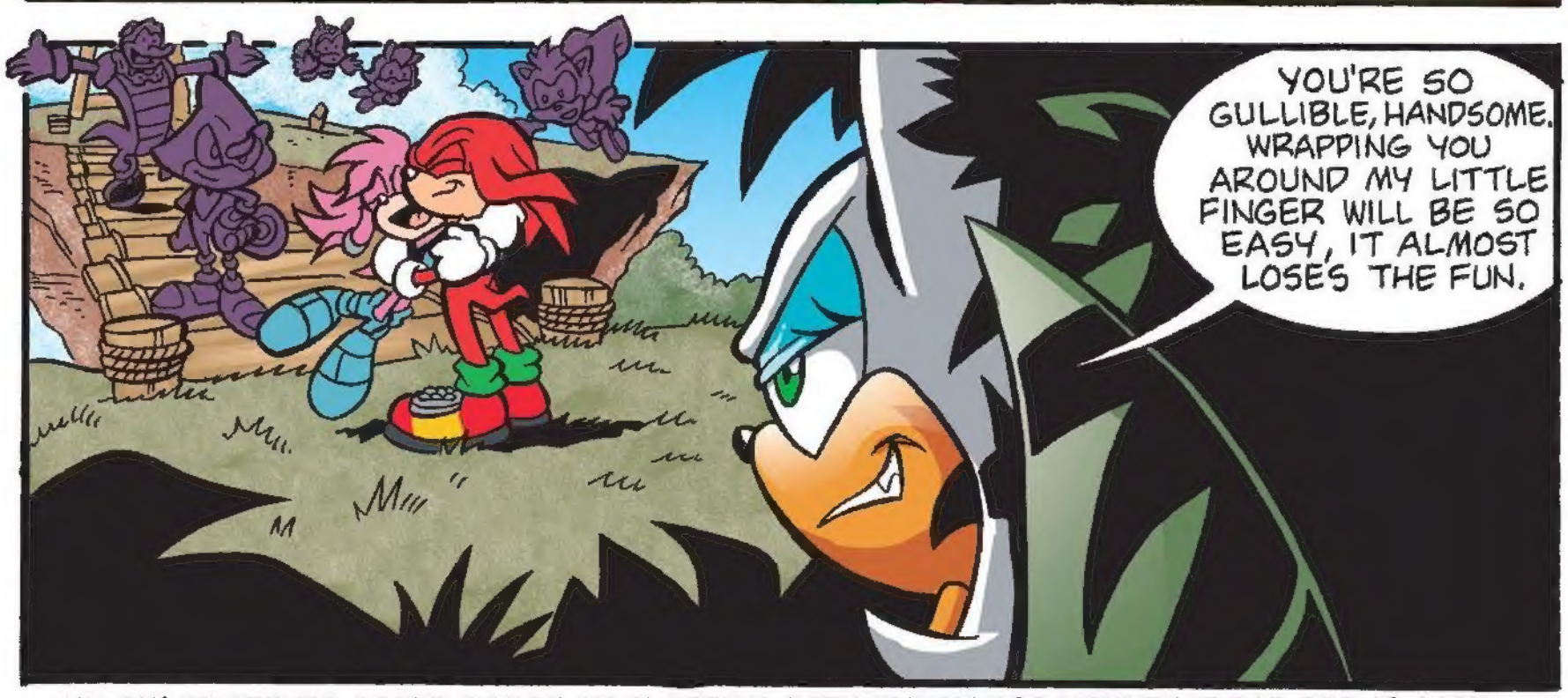
I'M NOT SAYING YOU GIVE UP ON THE ISLAND.
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T GIVE UP ON THE FIGHT BELOW EITHER. HIDING UP HERE IS COWARDICE AND DISHONORS LOCKE'S SACRIFICE.

NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT THE WARP RING TECH, YOU CAN KEEP AN EYE ON BOTH FRONTS ALL THE BETTER. SO WHAT MAKES THE MOST SENSE?









UH OH! WHATEVER COULD ROUGE BE PLOTTING WITH KNUCKLES? NOW THAT RAD RED IS BACK WITH HIS FRIENDS, HOW WILL HE HANDLE THE FEELINGS OF GUILT FROM HIS RECENT ENERJAK RAMPAGE? WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND FIND OUT!

PICK UP YOUR COPY OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #187, AND SATISFY YOUR SONIC CRAVINGS WITH SONIC X #31, ON SALE SOON! AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT SONIC ARCHIVES AND THE NEW SERIES, SONIC SELECT, COMING TO A STORE NEAR YOU!!